



Equal Rights

Official Organ, THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
CAPITOL HILL • WASHINGTON, D. C.

Vol. 22—No. 1

January 1, 1936

Price Five Cents

CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN OPENS

HELEN HUNT WEST, of Florida, first vice chairman of the Congressional Committee, has been appointed acting chairman of the Congressional Committee by the National Council, during the absence of Maud Younger, who will not be able to be in Washington this winter. Mrs. West will personally direct the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress.

"The constitutional guarantee of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,' should assure to women just that, but it has not been so construed, making it necessary to obtain a specific guarantee," Mrs. West explained recently over the radio to those who do not understand the necessity for an amendment to the Constitution, giving women equal rights with men.

In inaugurating the 1936 campaign, Mrs. West has sent out a letter to all State and Congressional chairmen of the Woman's Party, in which she outlines her plans for the Congressional session in these words:

"As a result of the recent Conference of the National Woman's Party, the National Congressional Committee, of which I am acting chairman, is taking immediate steps toward bringing to a successful conclusion the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment at the present session of Congress.

The definite attack being made on woman's right to work and the very apparent attempt to eliminate her from the field of paid employment makes the Amendment an emergency measure.

Women of the United States are aroused as never before and it appears necessary to concentrate upon immediate action. Will you not name for your State a strong Congressional Committee and see to it that your Congressional delegation is immediately lobbied on the Equal Rights Amendment, which reads: 'Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.'

Make every effort to pledge your entire delegation before Congress convenes the first week in January. Arrange deputations to them, have persons write letters asking that they support the measure; obtain as many endorsements from organizations as possible and give the matter publicity.

It might be well to appoint a Publicity Committee to handle this. I might also suggest that on your Congressional Committee, which can be as

large as you think advisable, you appoint as many women as possible who are heads of such organizations as Women's Clubs, Business and Professional Women's Clubs, etc.

Wherever possible obtain endorsement of the Amendment by Party organizations. Petitions to your Congressional delegation signed by large numbers, are likewise good.

Your job is to pledge your United States Representatives and Senators. The future security of women of the United States is at stake.

Keep us advised as to progress and bend every effort toward making this a concerted drive for success in this session of Congress. It can be done!"

SPEECHES AT COLUMBUS CONFERENCE

(Continued from last issue)

Edwina Avery, chairman of the Government Worker's Council of the Woman's Party, said in part:

"Most of you know that the law (Section 213 of the National Economy Act), while purporting to prevent the employment of *both husband and wife* in the Federal Service, was actually designed and what is worse, has been enforced in such a way as to set up a very effective bar to the gainful employment of married women, not only in the Federal Service but throughout the country, because the State and local governments and business have as usual followed the leadership of the National Government.

The urge to curtail the opportunities of women to earn continues unabated. State legislatures throughout the country had much discriminatory legislation before them during last year's sessions. California, Illinois, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Arizona, Connecticut, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania all considered bills curtailing in some way the employment of women. In six of these the attack centered on married women.

In a recently published announcement of Civil Service examinations for stenographers and typists to be held in Texas, it was specified that men only would be admitted to the examinations. It is reported that in two of the independent offices in Washington, word has been passed down to personnel officers that no more women are to be employed.

We see, therefore, that a thing which started out as a very localized problem of a small group

has spread like wild fire until it now menaces the economic freedom of every woman and has become therefore the major problem facing the feminist movement today. . . .

Corrington Gill, Assistant Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, said recently in speaking of the relief problem: 'Marriage no longer has the firm economic base that was at one time associated with it, and for that reason the prevalent effort now made to remove married women from the gainful occupations is iniquitous and unfair. Married women as well as other women are too often required to support themselves and dependents to make the ancient legend about women being supported by men any longer tenable. The relief rolls are now paying for the injustice of society in raising up barriers against married women's right to earn their own living and support their dependents.'

In fact, nowadays marriage brings to many women greater financial responsibility rather than security.

Olive Schreiner wrote years ago that woman will patiently bear all the burdens imposed on her until the good of the race demands that she refuse to bear them longer. Woman has borne all the burdens society has imposed upon her and borne them patiently, but the time has arrived when the race demands that she refuse to bear them longer. Slowly she is awakening today to the need for throwing off her chains. And man, thinking man, as eager for the health, peace and happiness of the race as woman, will help her as he always has.

Your part in all this at the present time is active enlistment in the ranks of these men and women who first, are going to insist that this blot on our National honor be wiped out by the repeal of this law, and then are going gloriously forward to the placing of a safeguard against the recurrence of such folly by an addition to our Federal Constitution of an amendment which will once and for all declare the equality of men and women throughout this nation of ours."

RADIO COMMITTEE CREATED

The National Council of the Woman's Party has just added a Radio Committee to its list of national committees and Mrs. Lois Babcock, of Utica, New York, has been appointed chairman. Mrs. Babcock has long been active in Woman's Party work, having been associated during the suffrage campaign with Mrs. J. A. H. Hopkins, chairman of the New Jersey branch.

Having done successful professional work in the radio field, Mrs. Babcock is particularly well equipped to direct the radio work for the Woman's Party. She arranged for the speech of Helen Hunt West, acting Congressional chairman, over WJSV Broadcasting Station, December 8th, and is arranging a series of speeches on the Congressional situation. Among her plans is one for a dramatic presentation over the radio of an original sketch of the life of Lucretia Mott on her birthday in January.

EQUAL RIGHTS

(Registered in U. S. Patent Office)

Official organ of The National Woman's Party, published semi-monthly at Washington, D. C. Subscription price, \$1.00 per year; foreign, \$1.50. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Editors

EMILY PERRY

REBEKAH S. GREATHOUSE
ALMA LUTZ

AGNES MORROW SCANDRETT
CECILE P. MAURER

Circulation Manager, MABEL VAN DYKE

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships and in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution and the Equal Rights Treaty. They read as follows:

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

INTRODUCED — Senate — By Senator Townsend, Del., Jan. 4, 1935.
(Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.)

House — By Rep. Ludlow, Ind., Jan. 3, 1935.
(House Joint Resolution No. 1.)

PRESENT STATUS — Senate — Before Judiciary Committee.
House — Before Judiciary Committee.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

Article 1

The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty men and women shall have equal rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions.

SIGNED — By the Governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PRESENT STATUS — On the agenda of the League of Nations Assembly, September, 1935.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Chairman, FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES, DEL.

Vice Chairmen

GAIL LAUGHLIN, ME.
ANITA POLLITZER, S. C.
MRS. HARVEY W. WILEY, D. C.

Secretary

REBEKAH S. GREATHOUSE, D. C.

Treasurer

LAURA BERRIEN, GA.

ETHEL ADAMSON, N. J.
NINA ALLENDER, D. C.
EDWINA AVERY, N. Y.
KATHERINE HILLES CALLERY, DEL.
MRS. MERRITT O. CHANCE, MD.
ELSIE HILL, CONN.
EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER, MD.
INEZ HAYNES LEWIN, N. Y.
ELIZABETH T. KENT, CALIF.
LOLA MAVERICK LLOYD, ILL.
ALMA LUTZ, MASS.
ALICE LEE WEST MOVIOUS, MASS.
MARY MURRAY, N. Y.

DORA G. OGLE, MD.
ALICE PAUL, N. J.
SARAH T. FELL, N. Y.
ELIZABETH SELDEN ROGERS, N. Y.
ANNE CLEMENT ROTTIER, WIS.
JANE E. NORMAN SMITH, N. Y.
DORIS STEVENS, N. Y.
BETTY GRAM SWING, D. C.
MRS. JOHN JAY WHITE, N. Y.
MARGARET WHITEMORE, CALIF.
MRS. VALENTINE WINTERS, OHIO
MAUD YOUNGER, CALIF.

Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Advisory Council

SARAH T. FELL, N. Y.

Archives

MARY PHILBROOK, N. J.

Congressional

MAUD YOUNGER, CALIF., Chairman
HELEN HUNT WEST, FLA.,
Acting Chairman

ANNE CLEMENT ROTTIER, WIS.,
Vice Chairman

ANITA POLLITZER, Secretary

Equal Rights

EMILY PERRY, D. C.

Equality of Economic Opportunity

JANE NORMAN SMITH, N. Y.

Historical Data Distribution

EMMA WOLD, D. C.

International Relations

LOLA MAVERICK LLOYD, ILL.

Legal Counsel

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS, D. C.

Investment and Endowment

MAUD YOUNGER, CALIF., Chairman
MARGUERITE SMITH, MASS.,
Vice Chairman

QUEEN PERRY COONLEY, D. C.,
Treasurer

Literature

ALMA LUTZ, MASS.

House

MRS. NORMAN UNDERWOOD, D. C.

Organization

CLARA SNELL WOLFE, OHIO, Chairman
KATHLEEN HENDRIE, Vice Chairman

Radio

LOIS BABCOCK, N. Y.

Susan B. Anthony Memorial

ETHEL ADAMSON, N. J.

Ways and Means

BETTY GRAM SWING, D. C.

Parliamentarian

EMMA FOX, MICH.

ARCHIVES CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Mary Philbrook, well known member of the New Jersey Bar, was appointed chairman of the Archives Committee at the Woman's Party's recent Conference at Columbus.

Miss Philbrook, pioneer woman lawyer of New Jersey, has consented to edit and collect the Woman's Party's collection of letters, press clippings, photographs and records of hearings before committees of Congress because she feels they form a valuable part of the history of the United States. "I should like to contribute my time and experience to collecting the data of my period in this movement, for future generations," says Miss Philbrook. She will appoint a committee of four to help her.

Many valuable letters are in the collection of correspondence which was loaned, at the conclusion of the suffrage campaign, to the Congressional Library. The collection to be made and placed in the vault of the Party's Headquarters on Capitol Hill will include letters and statements from Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Harding on the Suffrage Amendment, and letters from Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone and other famous workers for the cause of Equal Rights.

Miss Philbrook was the first woman admitted to the New Jersey bar. She was at first refused on the grounds that there was no provision for the admittance of women and referred to the legislature. It took her 15 months to get legislation that would admit herself and any other woman who might apply, but she did it.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Organization

by Clara Snell Wolfe

National Organization Chairman

Perhaps an account of organization work, like charity, may well begin at home, which explains why I begin with Ohio. Since organization is not an end in itself, but the starting point and basis of many lines of activity, it may not be out of order to incorporate in this report some account of work done after organization has taken place.

Ohio. The visits of our national chairman, Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, to central and southern Ohio a year ago last June and October, when she spoke before a group of 100 women in Columbus, 50 in Cincinnati and a large and influential number of men and women in Dayton, gave impetus to the National Woman's Party in Ohio. At the Dayton meeting Mrs. Winters, state chairman, appointed a committee for the 3rd Congressional district, which later formed an organization and has held regular meeting ever since. Recently the Dayton meetings have taken the form of an open forum, which has been given striking publicity with much space in the newspapers. The group, under the chairmanship of Miss E. Hildegard Swenson, has engaged in projects to raise money,

has increased its membership, and has filled out-of-town engagements. Accompanied by two Columbus representatives, it has interviewed the Congressman from its district as well as Congressman Charles West, then candidate for the U. S. Senate. Mr. West assured us of his belief in and support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The 12th district branch was formed in Columbus in October, 1934. Monthly luncheon meetings were held throughout the year. At all these meetings the object of the Party was explained, membership was increased, and attacks made on Section 213 of the Economy Act. It was here that the campaign was initiated against the King Bill (Ohio's Section 213), which would have prohibited practically all heads of departments in the state government from employing any person in the civil service, either classified or unclassified, who bears the legal status of marriage to another person already in the service. After this bill had passed the House with over 400 affirmative votes, only one member dissenting, we defeated it in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Later we appeared before the Labor Committee and the Rules Committee against an extension of the 40-hour law for women and minors, including executives. This bill was defeated in the House.

Already this year the chairman of the 12th Congressional district, Mrs. Helen Robbins Bittermann, has spoken before the 12th district branch of the Ohio Nurses' Association (100 present), the Columbus Woman's Association of Commerce, the Altrusa Club, the Woman's Council, which represents all women's organizations in Franklin County, and twice before the Business and Professional Women's Club. Mrs. Rector and Mrs. Bittermann have spoken before the Altrusa Club of Chillicothe. Much publicity has been given this fall, and of the best sort; that is, our position has been made clear against all so-called protective legislation for women only, and on all immediate equal rights issues. This publicity is now bringing letters from other parts of the state, offering help in organization and asking how groups may become affiliated.

Mrs. Blanche Meyer of Columbus has just completed a three-page article, mimeographed at her own expense, which is headed, "The National Woman's Party—What is it? What does it do? Who belongs to it? What should it mean to you?" This article treats especially the status of women in Ohio.

In other parts of Ohio the foundation has been laid for organization in Toledo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Marion, Lancaster, Granville, Circleville, Hamilton, Chillicothe, Kenton, Mt. Victory. (Some of these places are small but they contain voters who have influence with their Congressmen. We must not neglect the districts containing no large cities. They are often the easiest in which to secure results.) A Toledo member, Miss Helen Carroll, has spoken in Fremont, and the Dayton group in Hamilton. In some cases the endorsement of the Amendment has been secured. The first by an outside organization was by the 12th

Congressional District Women's Republican Club, by Mrs. Clyde Reynolds.

State of Organization Throughout the Country

In attacking organization work throughout the country, the first thing to do seemed to be to learn the present state of organization in the 48 states. Letters were written to state chairmen asking for information on this point. Not all have yet answered but some of the replies are of interest:

California. Mrs. William Kent replied at once, enclosing copy of a letter she had just drafted in response to our inquiry, asking old members to renew their membership. A fortnight later Mrs. Kent wrote again, saying her letter had been out but a few days and that she had received in dues \$12.00. She adds, "You may count on about \$50.00 from here, perhaps more."

Sue Brobst, head of the Business Women's Legislative Council of California, also wrote, telling of her gratitude to the National Woman's Party and the cooperation of her organization with it. The Business Women's Legislative Council is virtually a Woman's Party organization, with its leading objective the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and its membership open only to those women who favor equal rights. This organization is vigilant, aggressive and efficient. Its only limitation, from our point of view, is that its voting membership is open only to business and professional women. For this reason and because its officers are residents of a single city—Los Angeles—and because two organizations are needed that they may reinforce each other in their demands, there must continue to be a National Woman's Party in California.

Minnesota. National Woman's Party work in Minnesota is in the hands of the president of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Mrs. Olivia Johnson, of St. Paul. Mrs. Johnson writes, "We have a very ardent group in Minnesota which is most heartily in favor of equal rights. . . . Our state chairman of legislation is Miss Isla Lindmeyer of Mankato. Through her committee we feed the twenty-two Minnesota Business and Professional Women's Clubs with various opinions in favor of equal rights. In fact, ours is an opinion moulding campaign."

Wisconsin. Mrs. Belle Bortin Rupp says that Wisconsin women, after the passage of the equal rights measure in their state in 1921, felt for a time that they had accomplished their objective. Now they realize that the measure contained a big joker—the specification that no protective legislation for women shall be endangered. Cooperation in reorganization is promised. A group of members has continued to take an active part when legislation affecting women has been introduced.

Mississippi. Mrs. Ellen Phelps Crump, in a letter to Miss Paul says, "I have been thinking a

good deal of the National Woman's Party in Mississippi. . . . I have done all that I can for the cause not losing any opportunity to advance it. If some one is sent to organize this state, as I understand was suggested in a letter received, I will do all I can to help them."

Tennessee. Mrs. Bessie V. Smith, when she visited headquarters in August, promised to begin organization. In a letter to Mrs. Greathouse, November 13, 1935, Mrs. Smith outlines ideals and methods in a way that promises well for organization in Tennessee.

New Mexico. Mrs. Karl W. Green, one of the founders of the National Woman's Party, now living in Washington, D. C., sends valuable suggestions for furthering the work in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Silver City.

Virginia. Mrs. Elsie M. Graff, recently elected chairman of the Virginia Branch, writes of a newly adopted constitution which provides for organization by both geographical and occupational groups. Plans are already made for formation of these groups. Since her election Mrs. Graff has made a trip to Norfolk and is looking to Roanoke, Lynchburg and Danville as promising fields of work.

Connecticut. Mrs. John Jay White reports, "I have been able to arouse interest in the National Woman's Party from Greenwich to Hartford and have a good list to give you when you come this way."

Rhode Island and West Virginia. Mrs. Sara M. Algeo, Rhode Island chairman, and Mrs. F. Emma Bishop, West Virginia, replied to the inquiry on the status of organization in their states. Mrs. Bishop adds, "West Virginia is a fertile field, only waiting for competent activity."

Wyoming. Wyoming needs no organization, or rather, Miss Elizabeth Wiley, of Greybull, is herself organization enough for the state, for Wyoming, its whole Congressional delegation and U. S. Senators, are signed up for the Equal Rights Amendment. This includes also all candidates for these offices in the last election. Miss Wiley says her state is equal rights minded and that support would be forthcoming for organization.

Eastern States. National Woman's Party branches in our important eastern states have always been outstanding in their organization work. New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland (the Baltimore Branch alone has more than 350 members), District of Columbia, Delaware, New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts have their activities reported so well in our feminist papers and in the daily press that it is unnecessary to recount them here. Before the next biennial convention a year from now, however, it is hoped that district organizations and membership may be doubled even in these states.